Saka no Ue no Mahoutsukai

Volume 1 - Chapter 4

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WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN US...
POSSIBLE RECRUITEE
Uwah~
Get access to all the goods!
❖This is an accurate depiction of how teetee dresses on a daily basis.

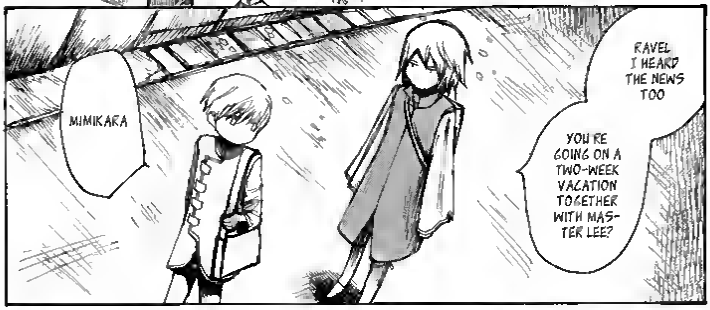
teetee (recruiter)
glomp
OKAY, OKAY JUST GO TAKE THE TEST ALREADY.
Yes! I'll join! I'll help out! Please let me touch the goods!

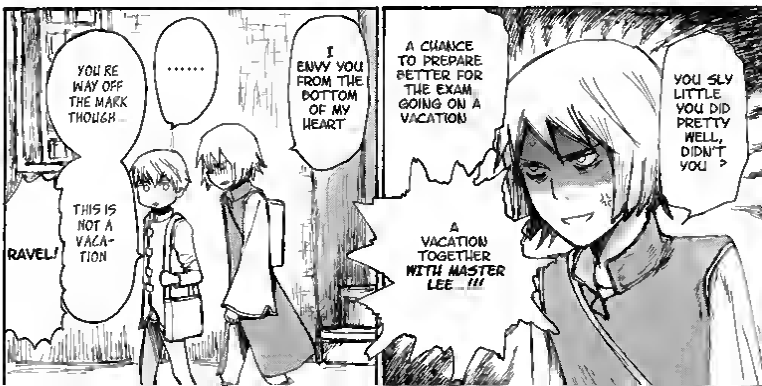
whoosh
LATE AUTUMN
shiver
SO COLD
whoosh
The snow's already piling up in the mountains, and the wind is blowing harshly
I should be getting home soon
Just when I was thinking that
Master Lee and I live in the southern part, so I usually make trips to the lake nearby to get water
KAVEL
FLEASE GIVE THIS TO YOUR HEAD-MASTER
Ugnk
WHAT IS THIS?
A LETTER?

I STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL THIS YEAR!
I COULD HANDLE IT LAST YEAR, BUT
HAVEN'T OUR DEPARTURES ALWAYS BEEN SUDDEN?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
AND BESIDES...
Tomorrow?!
Isn't this a bit too sudden?
THE LETTER IS TO EXPLAIN YOUR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL.
TOMORROW WE SHALL START OUR JOURNEY TO THE SOUTH.
Aaaaah!
REJECTED.
EVEN IF YOU FAIL YOUR EXAM, YOU WILL STILL LIVE, NO?
YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, SO... IS THERE ANY WAY YOU COULD PLEASE POSTPONE THE DEPARTURE DATE?
I'VE GOT AN EXAM SOON!
GRIP
Master Lee is a sorcerer. Therefore,
A TRIP? AT THIS TIME OF YEAR?
he couldn't care less about human schooling

IN THE LAKE REGION?
SOUTH
!!
A LOT OF RUMORS BASED ON HEARSAY GO ON CONCERNING THAT SCHOOL, BUT I THINK IT WILL PROBABLY BE A GOOD THING FOR YOU. HAVE A SAFE TRIP, AND TAKE CARE, ALRIGHT?
THERE'S A SORCERY SCHOOL IN THE PROXIMITY

Yes... A trip to the South that will take around half a month...
It's something I need to do annually...

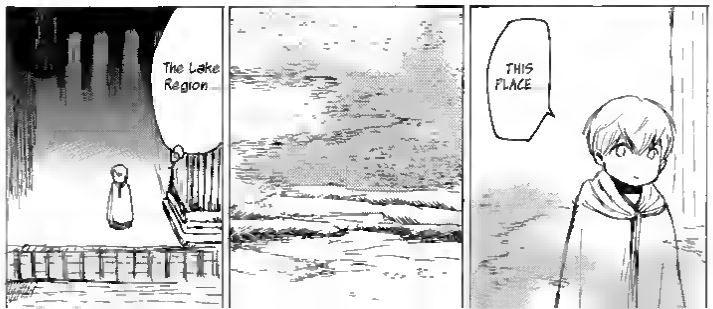

MIMIKARA
RAVEL I HEARD THE NEWS TOO
YOU'RE GOING ON A TWO-WEEK VACATION TOGETHER WITH MASTER LEE?


RAVEL!
THIS IS NOT A VACATION
YOU'RE WAY OFF THE MARK THOUGH...
.....
I ENVY YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART
A CHANCE TO PREPARE BETTER FOR THE EXAM GOING ON A VACATION
A VACATION TOGETHER WITH MASTER LEE...!!!
YOU SLY LITTLE YOU DID PRETTY WELL, DIDN'T YOU ?

EH?
IT'S SURVIVAL TRAINING!
THIS IS NOT A VACATION!
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!
THIS IS TRAINING!
That's right
sparkle
Did you say you're going to the Lake Region?
You must bring back some nice shells from there!
I'll put them in my hair
Just like this flower
I'm feeling reluctant, to say the least
We wore the same water bottle shoes
It's the "sleeping outdoors" kind of hardcore survival
AH, YES! I'M NEARLY DONE.
RAVEL, ARE YOU DONE WITH THE PREPARATIONS?
HERE, TAKE THIS
LAST YEAR'S CAPE IS TOO SMALL FOR YOU, ISN'T IT?
WAH IT'S A CAPE MADE WITH DOKA-DOKA GOAT FUR!
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO HAVE THIS EXPENSIVE THING?
SO FT.

On top of that it's so light!
I feel like an aristo-crat just putting this on
Thank you Master Lee
I'll take good care of it!
THE CAPE
IS PROPERLY FASTENED LIKE THIS
GO TO SLEEP ALREADY
YOU WILL NEED TO WAKE UP EARLY IN THE MORNING
OKAY
GOOD NIGHT
PEOPLE NOWADAYS IGNORE THE PROPER WAY TO DO IT THOUGH

Just by having such an expensive cape,
Hmm
Since long before, a Dora-Dora goat fur cape was the possession of nobles only, and therefore an extremely luxurious item
I started feeling better all of a sudden
I've only seen it in books, but the kings and queens from ancient times wore Dora-Dora capes
I was secretly enthralled by it
It's the same cape as this Queen's
But
since we're poor,
I wonder if Master Lee pushed himself too hard to get me this
SWOOSH

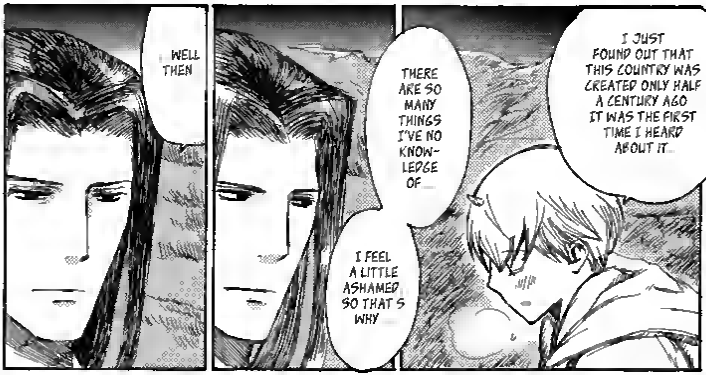

The Lake Region...
THIS PLACE

THIS PILLAR IS MADE OF SAND...
Lee Lenore
sink
AH!
A PALACE?
HOW MANY LEFT?
THE SEVENTH TIME, 7 PEOPLE. THE EIGHTH TIME, 0 PEOPLE. THE NINTH TIME... 0 PEOPLE.
!!!
THE TENTH TIME, LEE REMAINED...
I SEE. AS ONE WOULD EXPECT...
"Lee"? As in, Master Lee?
...
!
YOU THERE! COME OUT FROM YOUR HIDING PLACE!
BA-THUMP
IF YOU DON'T STEP OUT, WE SHALL COME GET YOU!
FLASH
AH!

Yes...
...
IT'S TIME TO LEAVE...
HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU INTEND TO SLEEP?
It's still pitch black outside...
So sleepy...
OKAY
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY
WE SHALL RIDE IN A CARRIAGE UNTIL NIMOU

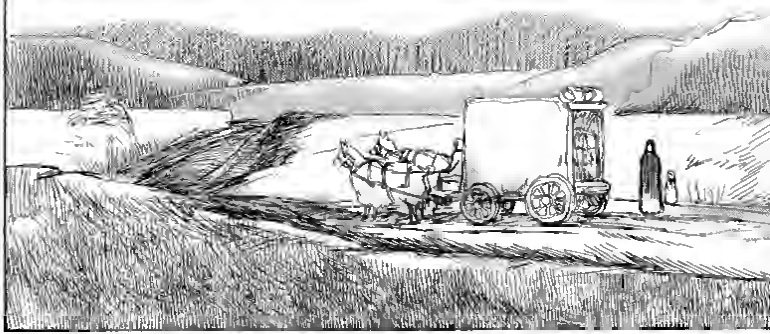
I DREAMT I WAS IN A PALACE IN THE LAKE REGION
THE PILLARS OF THE PALACE WERE MADE OF SAND!
WHAT WAS IT?
BY THE WAY, I HAD A REALLY STRANGE DREAM THIS MORNING
I HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA. IS THE PALACE STILL THERE? I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO SEE IT MYSELF
EH?
NOWADAYS, NO, BUT THERE USED TO BE ONE IN THE OLDEN DAYS HALF A CENTURY AGO. IT WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE KINGDOM.
WAS THERE EVER A PALACE IN THAT AREA?
...
SO WHILE I'M AT IT, I MAY AS WELL DO SOME HISTORY RESEARCH AS WELL~
IN FACT, AT SCHOOL, WE'VE BARELY JUST STARTED TO LEARN ABOUT THE LAKE REGION.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE HISTORICAL FACTS THAT KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN KNOW
TO BE HONEST, MY GRADES IN HISTORY ARE QUITE POOR...
HISTORY?
YES

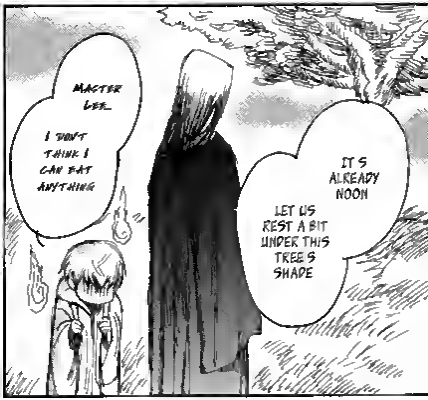

...WELL THEN
I FEEL A LITTLE ASHAMED, SO THAT'S WHY...
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I'VE NO KNOWLEDGE OF...
I JUST FOUND OUT THAT THIS COUNTRY WAS CREATED ONLY HALF A CENTURY AGO. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I HEARD ABOUT IT...

You mean it?!
Thank you so much!
THIS TIME... I SHALL SPEAK ABOUT THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY AND OTHER THINGS AS WELL DURING OUR WAY THERE

Even so, it still makes me happy!
BUT EVEN IF I SAY "HISTORY," I'M STILL A SORCERER
SO I WILL END UP SPEAKING ABOUT SORCERY AS WELL
However,
This time, it will be an amazing journey!
Master Lee's stories
I later deeply regretted the mess I had gotten myself in
were all sinister.
Ooze...

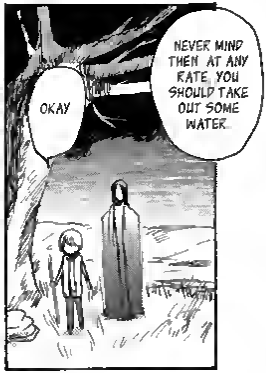


Cuz you just finished telling me a story about torture!
IF YOU DO NOT EAT, YOUR BODY WILL BECOME WEAK
WHY NOT?
shiver
shiver


MASTER LEE..
I don't think I can eat anything
IT'S ALREADY NOON
LET US REST A BIT UNDER THIS TREE'S SHADE

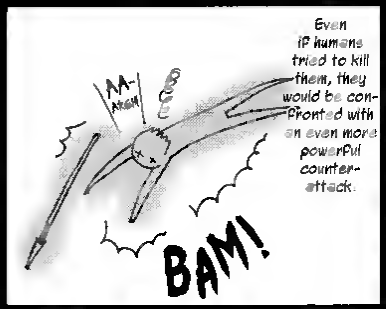
Hyaa!
PLUNG!

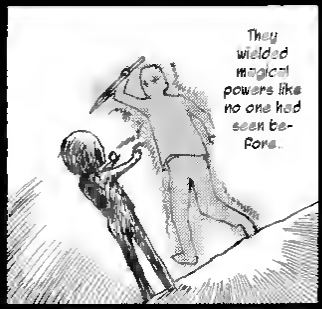
This year, I'll work hard!
Every time I tried to take out water last year, he'd glare at me!

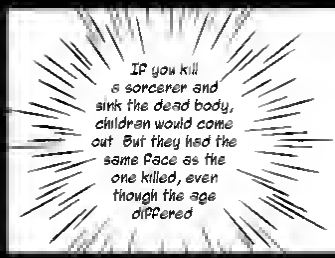

NEVER MIND THEN. AT ANY RATE, YOU SHOULD TAKE OUT SOME WATER..
OKAY

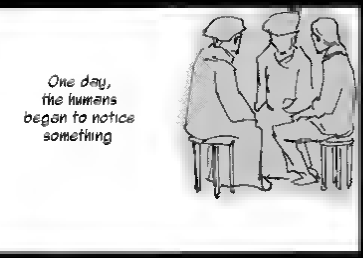
SIOSH
VERY WELL IT WAS QUITE SKILLFUL ACTUALLY
BOIL IT FIRST AND THEN DRINK.
Pitch
OKAY
Every year, the purpose of the trip
I'm the only one worrying about food anyway...
I NEED TO EAT SOME-THING.
Rumble
VERY WELL
I still have the bread I brought with me, but once we go into the mountains there'll be nothing but insects and fruit...
AT ANY RATE
How to get water, how to get food,
how to depend on no one but myself
is to try out the things I've learned in class the past year.
Boil
Boil

SPARE ME AT LEAST WHILE I'M EATING!
WAIT!
SHIVER SHIVER SHIVER
LET US CONTINUE WITH THE STORY FROM EARLIER THEN
They would throw all the corpses in the swamp lake, and thus, peace was restored.
Once upon a time, back when people feared sorcery,
sorcerers were hunted down and killed
Master Lei's story
children started coming out OF the marshes one by one.
But one day,


Even if humans tried to kill them, they would be confronted with an even more powerful counter-attack.
AA-Ahem
BAM!

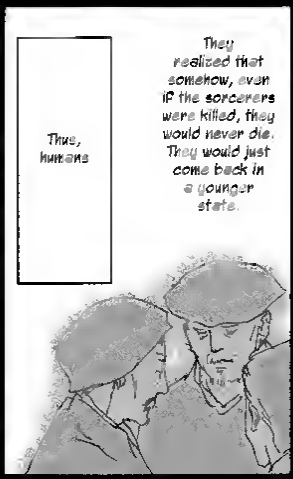

They wielded magical powers like no one had seen before.


If you kill a sorcerer and sink the dead body, children would come out. But they had the same face as the one killed, even though the age differed

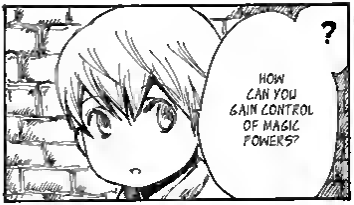

One day, the humans began to notice something

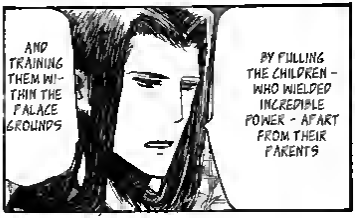
again
and again
Master Lee gave a very detailed account of the torture part especially.

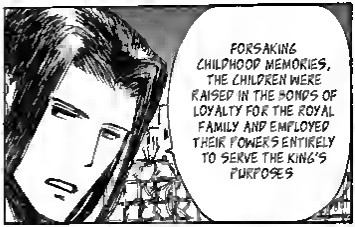
didn't kill sorcerers anymore, but resorted to torturing them alive repeatedly

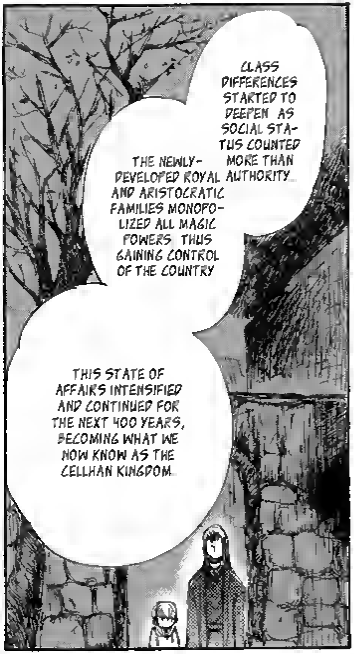

Thus, humans
They realized that somehow, even if the sorcerers were killed, they would never die. They would just come back in a younger state.

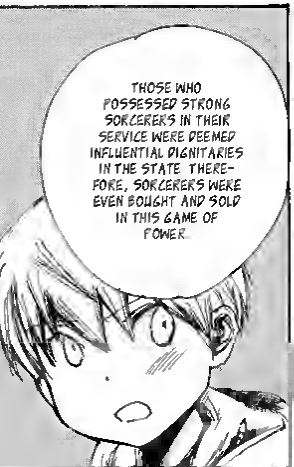
children continued to come out of the swamp and decided to escape those lands.
They sought a hiding place in the Lake Region, where the humans were scarce.
On the other hand,
Even when they looked dead, they would still be barely alive in that nearly-dead, corpse-like state
As the news spread, more and more sorcerers came to the Lake Region to seek safe shelter. This is how the First Great Sorcerer Country come to be
So the sorcerers employed magic to build homes out of sand
The Lake Region was poor in resources, and only water and sand was available
THE WEAKER ONES ENDED UP GRASPING THE REAL POWER IN THE STATE AND STARTED CALLING THEMSELVES ARISTOCRATS AND PART OF THE ROYAL FAMILIES
THE STRONGER ONES DEPENDING ON THEIR PRACTICAL SKILLS WOULD HELP OUT IN THE OTHER AREAS. SO A GOOD BALANCE WAS MAINTAINED. HOWEVER
AMONG SORCERERS, THOSE WHO HAD WEAK MAGICAL POWERS DEVOTED THEMSELVES TO THE POLITICAL STATE OF AFFAIRS

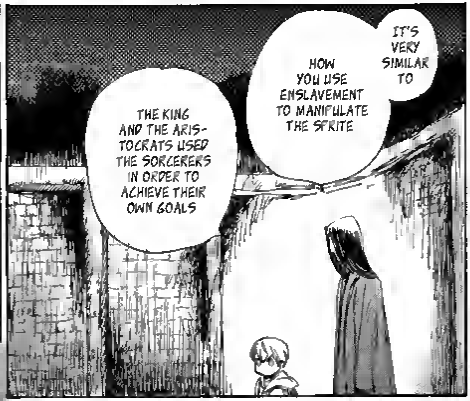

?
HOW CAN YOU GAIN CONTROL OF MAGIC POWERS?


BY FILLING THE CHILDREN - WHO WIELDED INCREDIBLE POWER - AFART FROM THEIR PARENTS
AND TRAINING THEM WITHIN THE PALACE GROUNDS


FORSAKING CHILDHOOD MEMORIES, THE CHILDREN WERE RAISED IN THE BONDS OF LOYALTY FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY AND EMPLOYED THEIR POWERS ENTIRELY TO SERVE THE KING'S PURPOSES

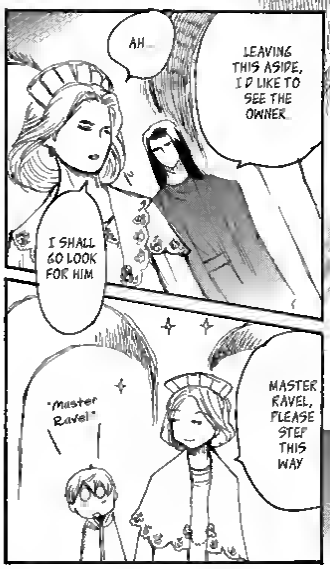

CLASS DIFFERENCES STARTED TO DEEPEN AS SOCIAL STATUS COUNTED MORE THAN AUTHORITY...
THE NEWLY-DEVELOPED ROYAL AND ARISTOCRATIC FAMILIES MONOPOLIZED ALL MAGIC POWERS THUS GAINING CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY
THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS INTENSIFIED AND CONTINUED FOR THE NEXT 400 YEARS, BECOMING WHAT WE NOW KNOW AS THE CELLHAN KINGDOM.


THOSE WHO POSSESSED STRONG SORCERERS IN THEIR SERVICE WERE DEEMED INFLUENTIAL DIGNITARIES IN THE STATE. THEREFORE, SORCERERS WERE EVEN BOUGHT AND SOLD IN THIS GAME OF POWER...


THE KING AND THE ARISTOCRATS USED THE SORCERERS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEIR OWN GOALS
HOW YOU USE ENSLAVEMENT TO MANIPULATE THE SPRITE
IT'S VERY SIMILAR TO

BECAUSE OF THIS, THE COUNTRY GREW STRONGER AND FLOURISHED
EH...? SOMEHOW,
IT RATHER FEELS LIKE MAGIC BROUGHT MISFORTUNE TO SORCERERS
ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS BEING SLAVES?
I'M THOROUGHLY RELIEVED THAT THIS KIND OF COUNTRY CAME TO RUIN
YOU MAY SAY THIS, BUT
IT WAS A GREAT COUNTRY
IF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD THE SAME ASTUTE POLICIES AS CELLHAN KINGDOM, I'D BE GLAD
SPEAKING OF WHICH
WHY DID CELLHAN PERISH?
...THAT
IS A STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME
LOOK, WE'RE ALREADY AT THE INN THAT WE'RE SPENDING THE NIGHT AT

An inn!
ARE YOU DISPLEASED WITH SOMETHING?
No, no, of course not. I'm actually deeply moved~
We're spending the night in a place with a roof over our heads ♡
AH...!
Master Lee!
This inn is certainly very expensive!
Tug
Tug
Let's switch to one that looks cheaper!
Let's go to that one!!
RAVEL,
THIS PLACE IS—
MASTER LEE!
Creak
I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOUR GRACE!
PLEASE DO COME IN!
THANK YOU.
Wow...



I'M FINE.
PLEASE SEE THAT THE CHILD IS BATHED FIRST.
YOU MUST BE VERY TIRED! THE BATH WE HAVE PREPARED FOR YOU SHALL BE READY SHORTLY.
LOOKS AROUND
LOOKS AROUND

Amazing. This is the first time I've set foot in such a high-class inn...

Ba-dump Ba-dump

I wonder how much one night here costs. Maybe three times the price for a night at Sarah's inn?

Master Lee hasn't got the slightest clue about the world. How are we gonna pay for this...?

My worrisome heart didn't relax one bit.

I'M COMING IN
I'M ALREADY AT PEACE...
SEVERAL YEARS HAVE SWEPT OVER ME
JUST LIKE HUMANS... I ATE FOOD WITH MY MOUTH...
MAKI...
YOUR FACE HOW IS...
MASTER...
IT HAS BEEN A LON' TIME...
LEE...

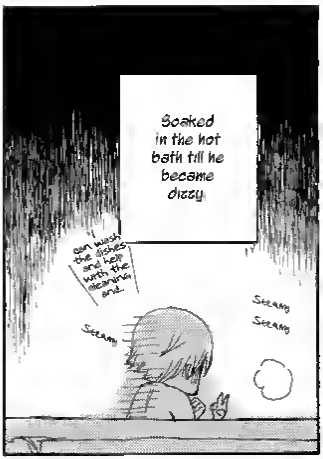
PFFT...
IT WAS SO DELI-CIOUS
MASTER LEE...
DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING OF THE TIME YOU WERE STILL HUMAN?
I...
EATING HUMAN FOOD...
MADE ME REMEMBER BY FATHER AND MY MOTHER...
THAT'S WHY IT'S ALREADY FINE...
I WANT TO MEET MOTHER AND FATHER...
I DIED 5 TIMES... THE SIXTH TIME WILL BE ENOUGH
I REMEM-BERED THE TIME I WAS THE CHILD OF MY MOTHER AND MY FATHER

HERE..
I AM GIVING YOU THIS..
clink
I AM NOT AS STRONG AS YOU ARE
HE LIKES IT VERY MUCH. I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR IT IN HIS STEAD..
THAT LITTLE BOY IS MASTER RAVEL, IS HE NOT?
THE CAFE FITS HIM REALLY WELL
THAT CAFE IS THE LEAST I CAN DO AS COM-FENSA-TION
FOR HIM... AND TOWARDS THAT YOUNG BOY.
THE RUMORS REACHED MY EARS...
YOU... ARE CURRENTLY LOOKIN' FOR THE POSSESSIONS BEQUEATHED BY THE DECEASED KING...

IT WAS EXACTLY 60 YEARS AGO...
SAME SEASON...
TOGETHER WITH MY COMRADES
WE MURDERED OUR OWN KING
THAT BEAUTIFUL CAPITAL... WE MADE IT TURN INTO SAND...
EVEN AFTER EVERY-THING WAS OVER
I WORRIED INCESSANTLY WHETHER I WOULD BE KILLED BY YOU SOMEDAY I DEEPLY DREADED THE MOMENT...
MASTER LEE...
DO YOU STILL LOATHE US?
.....
I DON'T
IT'S ALREADY WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

YOU HAVE CHANGED, MASTER LEE...
NO, NOT JUST ME
PROBABLY THE REST TOO
MORE THAN THE KING, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE,
I...
I FEARED YOU THE MOST...
AS DEEPLY FEARSOME AS YOU WERE
STILL, I WAS ENTHRALLED BY YOU...
...WHAT IS IT?
MASTER LEE IN THESE FINAL MOMENTS... CAN YOU PLEASE GRANT ME ONE WISH...?

MASTER LEE...
I WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOUR TRUE FORM...
AT THE LAST MOMENT... JUST ONCE IS ENOUGH...


Soaked in the hot bath till he became dizzy
I can wash the dishes and talk with the steam and...
Steam
Steam
Steam

If worse comes to worst, I can pawn the Dora-Dora cape...!
At that time, Ravel
Steam
Steam